

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /111 W  
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R 151527Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9291

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR PINT PO

SUBJ: CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY GENERAL CALVET DE MAGALHAES

SUMMARY: MEETING WITH SEC GEN FONMIN CALVET DE LAGALHAES  
THIS MORNING AT MY REQUEST I ADVISED HIM THAT LONG-  
ARRANGED MARCH 18 DINNER FOR ME TO MEET COSTA GOMES  
AND SPINOLA WOULD BE CANCELLED BUT I WANTED HIM TO  
UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT THIS DID NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE  
IN AMERICAN POLICY ON SELF-DETERMINATION. END SUMMARY.

1. SOME WEEKS AGO AS NORMAL PART OF PROGRAM FOR  
NEW AMBASSADOR DATT BLACKLEY ISSUED INVITATIONS INFORMAL  
DINNER AT HIS HOUSE FOR ME TO MEET COSTA GOMES AND  
SPINOLA THEN THE TWO TOP GOP MILITARY OFFICERS. ONLY  
OTHER GUESTS DCM AND GENERAL IVO FERREIRA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF  
ARMED FORCES. WIVES INCLUDED. TO THIS MOMENT ALL  
INVITEES HAVE ACCEPTED AND NO ACCEPTANCES REVOKED.

2. LATE THIS MORNING AT MY REQUEST I MET WITH SEC GEN  
FONMIN CALVET. I STARTED BY SAYING I  
AND MY ADVISORS THOUGHT THIS AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR  
US TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE IN CONNECTION CURRENT EVENTS  
IN GOP AND THAT DELICATE SITUATION HAD ARISEN OF  
WHICH I WANTED ADVISE HIM AND HE COULD COMMENT OR NOT  
AS HE CHOSE. I THEN TOLD HIM FACTS STATED ABOVE AND  
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SAID WE INTENDED TO HAVE DATT CANCEL MONDAY DINNER

SINCE WE ANTICIPATED THAT WHATEVER THE FACTS AND WHATEVER WAS SAID, SUCH A DINNER AT THIS TIME WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS US SUPPORT OF COSTA GOMES AND SPINOLA. I SAID PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS TO BE SURE THAT GOP WOULD NOT DRAW OPPOSITE CONCLUSION AND THINK THAT CANCELLATION OF DINNER WAS A SIGNAL OF ANY CHANGE IN US POLICY IN FAVOR AFRICAN SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. CALVET ASKED WHO HAD ISSUED THE INVITATIONS. I SAID DATT AS WAS NORMAL WHEN MILITARY ATTACHES INTRODUCED AMBASSADOR TO THEIR PORTUGUESE COUNTERPARTS. HE SAID DINNER MUST CERTAINLY BE CANCELLED OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS WOULD BE RAMPANT. HE ALSO SAID METHOD SEEMED SIMPLE TO HIM. DINNER HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR ME TO MEET CHIEF OF STAFF AND VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES AND COSTA GOMES AND SPINOLA ARE NO LONGER IN THOSE POSITIONS. HE SAID WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE COURTEOUSLY WITH COSTA GOMES AND SPINOLA ON THIS BASIS AND I SAID WE WERE ALREADY INTENDING TO DO SO. (FYI: DATT IS NOW TRYING TO SEE THEM BOTH PERSONALLY END FYI).

4. CALVET EXPRESSED APPRECIATION MY VISIT AND VOLUNTEERED WE SHOULD INVITE NEW CHIEF OF STAFF VERY PROMPTLY WHICH I SAID WE OF COURSE INTENDED TO DO. UNABLE RESTRAIN MY CURIOSITY I SAID I ASSUMED HOWEVER THAT THIS MEANT ONLY ONE INVITATION AND NOT TWO. CALVET AGREED SAYING THAT VICE CHIEF JOB HAD BEEN CREATED FOR SPINOLA AND THAT HE SAW NO NEED TO FILL VACANCY UNLESS THEY WERE RUNNING OUT OF JOBS FOR GENERALS.

5. COMMENT: I CAREFULLY CONFRONTED CALVET WITH DECISION ALREADY REACHED AND LEFT IT OPEN TO HIM TO WITHHOLD ANY COMMENT EXCEPT THAT HE GOT MY MESSAGE. HIS VOLUNTEERED COMMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT DINNER IF HELD WOULD HAVE BEEN A SCANDAL WITHIN GOP. END COMMENT.  
SCOTT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, SELFDETERMINATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LISBON00996  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740340/aaaablqf.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY GENERAL CALVET DE MAGALHAES SUMMARY: MEETING WITH SECGEN FONMIN CALVET DE LAGALHAES  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, PINT, PO, US, XA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005